Part of 2 Letters from Mr. Thomas Molyneux *concerning a Prodigious* Os Frontis *in the Medicine School at* Leyden. *Dec. 29th.* 1684. *and Febr.* 13*th* 168$\frac{4}{5}$.

I Herewith ſend you an Account of a prodigious large *Os Frontis* which I my ſelf have ſeen, and meaſured according to the Engliſh Inch; 'tis reſerved among ſeverall other bones, and ſceletons, that belong to the Medicine School, here at *Leyden*. And I take it to be the more obſervable, by reaſon, that altho' I have ſeen ſeverall bones, of very large ſize, that were ſaid to have been of Giants; yet I never was thoroughly ſatisfied, they really were ſo; imagining them only to have belonged to ſome other larger Creature, then a Man, whoſe bones for the moſt part, excepting thoſe of the head, do not much differ from thoſe of other Animals. But this being an entire *Os Frontis*, compleat every way, and differing in no reſpects from that of a Mans, but in its largeneſs; and ſince there's no Creature, eſpecially of the larger ſort that has this bone at all reſembling ours; there's not the leaſt Queſtion to be made, but this formerly belonged to a Man, and that of a moſt extravagant large ſize. Its dimenſions were as follow; from its juncture with the Naſal bones, to the place where the *Sutura Sagittalis* terminated the Convex way, 'twas 9 Inches $\frac{1}{10}$; tranſverſly from ſide to ſide, ſtill meaſuring the Convex way t'was 12 Inches $\frac{2}{10}$; in thickneſs about half an Inch. I have meaſured this ſame bone in ſeverall ordinary Skulls, according to all theſe Dimenſions, and find that one with another, they ſcarce anſwer it in half proportion; for where it was 9. Inches $\frac{1}{10}$, they are but 4 Inches and a half, and where it was 12 Inches $\frac{2}{10}$ they are not above 6,

and

and in thickneſs not above ¼ of an Inch. Now arguing that this bone bears that proportion to his ſtature, which the ſame in other Men does to theirs, it muſt follow that he was more then twice as tall as men uſually are; and according to the moſt moderate computation, ſuppoſing the height of a Man to be no more then five foot 6 Inches, he to whom this bone belonged, muſt have been at leaſt more then 11 or 12 foot high, a prodigious height for a Man, and ſuch as ſome will ſcarce allow ever to have been, *Sed ex Fronte Herculem, &c.*

Part of another Letter relating to the ſame ſubject. As to the Quære concerning the bone, I cannot ſatisfy you; were there any Account to have been got of it, I had certainly ſent it you before: it has been kept here theſe ſeveralſt years; and the preſent Profeſſor of Anatomy Dr. *Drelincourt* once told me, he found it among the reſt of the bones and Skeletons, when he firſt came into that place, but never could learn who gave it, where t'was found, or whence it came. That there are ſome whoſe heads are very large in proportion to their Body, cannot be denyed, yet generally ſuch Skulls want in thickneſs (as this does not,) are ill ſhaped, and not proportionable; and moreover I'm perſwaded there never yet was an Inſtance of any head, which by a præternaturall growth, came the leaſt nigh this for bulk; and as I conceive, 'tis far more probable, and eaſier to allow, that a Body bore this head which was proportionable to it, then that it belonged to a Man of ordinary ſtature; who in this particular, would certainly have been in one ſence, the greateſt Monſter the World ever ſaw.